

BENNETT PARALYZES PARIS.

The Sensation Created by His Coach-Lines and Gentlemen Drivers.

San Francisco Argonaut.

Gordon Bennett has often astonished Paris, but never more so than when he instituted the daily coach services between the Avenue de l'Opera and Poissy and Saint Germain. Hitherto, such a thing had never been known. Whenever people desired to resort to either of these places, they went by rail or river, or if they happened to possess a pair of good coach-horses, or drove a four-in-hand, by the road. But there was no public conveyance this way—the tramway stopping far short of Poissy at Versailles; and, besides, fashionable do not generally patronize tram-cars. They are for the common herd. Then the new coaches were got up in such fine style. The "Comet" and the "Rocket" could compare advantageously with the most perfectly appointed drags of the Coaching Club, and as for the teams, they are personally chosen by Bennett, one of the best judges of horse-flesh in the world. No money was spared in the equipment of the coaches, and, of course, a small fortune was expended on the stables. Now, if a Frenchman had taken this matter in hand, the prices charged for these junketings would certainly not have been less than a louis a head and it was no small part of the general surprise that a first-class railway return fare would almost pay for the double journey in one of these wonderful coaches. Well, it was looked upon as an American eccentricity, this extremely modest price. But this was not all. What created the most astonishment was the fact that the coaches were driven by gentlemen—by Mr. Ridgway, Mr. Tiffany, and by Mr. Bennett himself. Here was eccentricity with a vengeance; it fairly took "le Tout Paris" aback; it gasped open-mouthed, speechless; it could hardly believe its eyes or its ears. A gentleman jehu, a millionaire coachman driving Tom, Dick, and Harry for ten francs apiece, was a novelty beyond the wildest dreams of transatlantic extravagance. There was not a doubt "mildred" was surpassed, for, although a few here and there had heard that impetuous baronets were wont to take to the ribbons when all trades failed, none had ever driven his team on this side of the channel. But all this excitement is an old story now, and the *Herald* coaches going out in the morning, or coming in in the evening, the guard's horn gayly blowing, seem quite a matter of course—a special feature of Paris.

A LONDON CLERK.

The Salary He Gets Seems Meagre to an American in His Profession.

London Truth.

We will take first young Tomkins. Tomkins, sr., was something in the wholesale-line, and his eldest son is following him in the same direction. Mr. Tomkins is the second son, and he was taken from school at the age of 16 and put into a bill-broker's office at £40 a year. He is a fairly smart fellow, with a good head for figures. In the course of three years he rose to £50, £60, and £75. Then he saw a chance of bettering himself in another office. At 21 he was receiving £120 a year. He is now 24 and is drawing £150.

On that he exists very comfortably. He lives at home, rent and board free. He dresses magnificently; plays a good game and a good many games of billiards; spends Sunday up the river with other Tomkinses or the Simkinses; belongs to a cheap conservative club, and considers himself one of "the classes." For Tomkins at four and twenty a clerk's life seems fairly rosy. But where will Tomkins be at four and thirty? I have specially interviewed him on this point, and, for anything he knows, to the contrary, I find that he will be where he is now. He may get another rise of £10, perhaps two. But he can scarcely hope for more, and, as success has now made him self-satisfied and lazy, he may not get that. On the other hand, he may be much worse. He may be in the position of Simkins, who is in the very same office. Simkins is 30. His record is very similar to Tomkins'. Three years ago Simkins was precisely where Tomkins is now, including the conservative club. But at that point Simkins senior died, leaving a provision of £200 a year for his widow and four daughters.

Instead of living free at home, Simkins was reduced to board and lodge himself and to contribute a few pounds a year to his necessitous family—all out of £150 per annum. The conservative club is gone; so are Sundays up the river; so is the young lady with whom, in the days when he wore patent leather boots and a flower in his button-hole, Simkins became engaged. Simkins himself now is morose and disappointed, shiny about the shoulders and ragged about the cuffs and none too well fed. Tomkins, with whom he used to be rather thick, is ashamed to be seen with him in public and doesn't mind letting him know it. Are things likely to improve with Simkins as he grows older? Not a bit; the prospect is all the other way.

ELECTIONS IN GUATEMALA.

The Soldiers Do the Voting and the Returns Are Arranged to Suit.

San Francisco Call.

"The election of General Reyna Barrios to the Presidency of Guatemala seems assured," said Major A. H. Nave, who has recently thrown up a commission as army instructor, which he held from President Barillas. "Barillas favors Barrios' candidature for selfish reasons. During the two years of his dictatorship and the five years of his presidency, Barillas has confiscated property worth \$10,000,000, and appropriated the plunder to himself. A portion of the spoils is in five large coffee plantations and the balance is in cash. "When the election is over next month, Barillas will make an extended tour abroad, fearing personal consequences should he remain at home. His sole desire now is to see a man elected as his successor who will protect his interests and save his ill-gotten gains from reconfiscation. Barrios is opposed to the present system of official robbery in Guatemala, and will hold every man's property inviolate, and so Barillas indorses him. "The election will be a farce-comedy. The only votes cast will be by the soldiers, who will be largely influenced by their officers, with whom they are on the most intimate terms. Few of the civilians pay any attention to the contest, but the alcade of each district will gravely prepare a bogus report, giving the number of votes which he is pleased to declare have been cast. For the candidate he favors. "Barillas has the revision of this list, and will doubtless remedy any defects in the election returns, even supplying missing votes, should they be necessary for an election. The choice of a President by popular vote in Guatemala is rather a hollow honor."

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